

6. COMMUNITIES LIVING AND WORKING IN THE PARK



6. COMMUNITIES LIVING AND WORKING IN THE PARK

6.1 Introduction – Encouraging Sustainable Development

As well as being a national asset and a place of recreation and enjoyment, the Park is a place of work and daily life for approximately 16,000 people. The economic and social needs and issues in the Park are similar to those throughout rural Scotland, but its designation as a National Park brings a new focus to finding solutions that are sustainable in the long-term.

The goal of sustainable development means that the basic resources and special qualities of the Park must be safeguarded. In turn, these support the health and well-being and meet the needs of communities.

There is an opportunity in the Park to bring a renewed focus to sustainable development, building on the existing links between the economy, the natural environment and communities. The integration of these interests should ensure that economic development builds on the special qualities of the Park, is consistent with their conservation and enhancement, and meets the needs of the Park's communities.

The Park needs strong communities that are actively engaged in its management and shaping their own future. This section sets out strategic objectives to support and encourage the development of communities and the economy to help improve the well-being of those living and working in the Park and contribute to its long-term sustainability.

6.2 Economy and Employment

The economy of the Park is focused on a few key sectors, principally tourism, land management, public service and small-scale production such as brewing and distilling. The land management objectives in Section 5 contribute significantly to supporting the economy and communities, through those sectors that are directly related

to managing the resources of the Park. This section sets out objectives for the broader economy in the Park to strengthen its viability and ensure it contributes positively to all four aims of the Park.

Compared with Scotland as a whole, there is low unemployment and a high number of self-employed. However, many jobs in these sectors are highly seasonal with little long-term security, and these figures may mask the fact that many have to look elsewhere or leave the area to find work. There is an opportunity to focus on developing the economy in ways which are consistent with the special qualities of the Park and help to sustain thriving communities.

Strategic Objectives:

a) Create conditions conducive to business growth and investment that are consistent with the special qualities of the Park.

The special qualities and environment of the Park provide an opportunity to underpin business growth and investment in the area. The long-term management of the Park requires the development of the economy and communities to go hand-in-hand with the conservation and enhancement of the special qualities which give the Park its identity and provide many of its resources.

b) Encourage entrepreneurship, especially in young people and in sectors which complement the special qualities of the Park.

Entrepreneurship is vital to encourage more business growth and raise income levels in the Park. Young people with good ideas need to be supported, whether through better vocational training or information from an early stage on how they can obtain the skills they seek. In particular, the opportunities associated with the sustainable use of the natural and cultural resources of the Park should be encouraged.

c) Promote ‘green business’ opportunities.

As well as an area of outstanding conservation value, the Park is a place to work, and should be a place where businesses can thrive. Promoting green business means encouraging sectors that complement the Park’s aims and do not adversely impact on the special qualities. Assisting with resource and energy efficiency, waste management, promoting green tourism, stewardship by land-based businesses and backing of research and development within the Park are all opportunities for support.

d) Promote diversity and equality of employment opportunities across all areas of the Park.

Everyone living in the Park should have the same chance of developing to their full professional potential. This means ensuring that the Park encompasses a variety of sectors and does not rely on a narrow economic base. Specific groups need support to make certain that there is access for everyone in the jobs market, within and outside the Park.

e) Address barriers to employment uptake.

Currently there are a number of barriers to employment such as poor access to transport, seasonal demand for employment, lack of childcare and the inflexibility of working hours. Childcare is often inadequate to meet parents’ needs, particularly in sparsely populated areas. Through Childcare Partnerships, childminder and nursery provision can be improved in some places. Measures to address these barriers will encourage greater employment, contributing to more sustainable communities.

f) Raise the profile and excellence of local produce and services.

A relatively high proportion of the value of local products is currently taken out of the local economy through processing and sale

elsewhere. Strengthening local supply chains, branding and marketing, and adding value through processing local produce can all help to retain a greater share of the economic value deriving from the resources in the Park.

g) Encourage a population level and mix in the Park that meets the current and future needs of its communities and businesses.

Many of the objectives in this section of the Plan will influence and contribute to the population level and mix. However, at a time when the national population is expected to decline and age, it is an important aspiration to encourage a population in the Park that can continue to support thriving communities in the long-term.

Existing policy context

- Framework for Economic Development in Scotland 2004
- Smart Successful Scotland 2005
- Highlands and Islands Special Transitional Programme
- European Union Objective 2 Programme

Key implementation strategies

- Sustainable Business Framework
- Education and Youth Strategy
- Cairngorms Local Plan

Cross-reference

- 5.4 Integrated Land Management
- 6.4 Sustainable Tourism

6.3 Education and Training

The availability and quality of education and training for everyone is a key part of strengthening both the communities and the economy of the Park. There is a need to ensure that learning opportunities meet the needs of the communities and businesses in the Park, together with education that equips people with the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to reach their full potential.

Formal and informal education and training should seek to draw on the special qualities of

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the Park and use the Park as a context for learning. This section complements the broader objectives for informal learning and understanding set out in Section 7.4 – Learning and Understanding.

Strategic Objectives:

a) Promote access to education and vocational training at all levels across the Park.

Those wishing to study and train locally require more opportunities to do so. The provision of more trainers, courses and modules delivered in the Park will assist local people to gain skills that will ensure long-term and year-round levels of better-paid work.

b) Develop educational resources that draw on the special qualities of the Park.

There are opportunities to develop education at all levels that draw on, and in turn develop understanding of, the special qualities of the Park. These include the use of local examples, case studies and site visits within the school curriculum, and opportunities to build on the existing provision of outdoor education and tourism training provided within the Park. A focus on the educational resources the Park offers will help to ensure relevant training for future business needs and develop a longer-term understanding of the Park.

c) Ensure a match between training provision and current/future skills needs.

It is vital that the needs of local businesses and school leavers are met by local and national training and education schemes. Schemes should be both relevant and useful to local companies and young people.

d) Develop and support opportunities for volunteering.

Some local schemes are already in place to help people volunteer across a range of areas. The opportunity exists to better co-ordinate volunteering in all sectors,

particularly related to the special qualities of the Park and to develop more local initiatives to allow residents and visitors to take part in caring for the National Park.

Existing policy context

- Education and Training (Scotland) Act 2000
- Smart Successful Scotland 2005

Key implementation strategies

- Education and Youth Strategy
- Land-Based Business Training Project

Cross-reference

- 7.4 Learning and Understanding

6.4 Sustainable Tourism

European Charter for Sustainable Tourism

In July 2005, the Cairngorms National Park was the first UK National Park to be awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism by the EUROPARC Federation. The Charter recognises that the management of tourism in the Cairngorms National Park addresses the balance between the needs of visitors, the environment and the local communities. It emphasises the need to conserve and promote the special qualities of the Park as the basis of tourism and sets four key aims on which management is based:

- To conserve, enhance and gain value from the environment and heritage;
- To increase economic and social benefits from tourism;
- To protect and improve the quality of life of local people;
- To engage in effective visitor management and enhance the quality of tourism offered.

There are currently 19 protected areas throughout Europe where sustainable tourism management is recognised by award of the Charter. The tourism and visitor management objectives of the Park Plan will be delivered partly through the Sustainable Tourism Strategy. This has been developed by a partnership of the tourism sector in the Park.

Strategic Objectives:

- a) **Maintain a high quality environment by encouraging sound environmental management and support for nature conservation by all those involved in tourism in the Park.**

The high quality environment forms the basis for tourism in the Park and is therefore one of the sector's most important assets. Everyone involved in tourism should minimise negative impacts and support positive enhancement of the environment. This includes action for the landscape and habitat resources that underpin much of the visitor appeal, as well as sound environmental management practice in individual tourist businesses. Those advising and supporting the development of new tourism businesses should ensure that high environmental standards are built into business development.

- b) **Raise awareness of the Park as a premier, year-round rural tourism destination in the UK, recognising its outstanding natural heritage and its National Park status.**

A co-ordinated approach to marketing the special qualities of the Cairngorms National Park can increase awareness, nationally and internationally, and encourage more visits to the Park. Many businesses are seeking to increase their income throughout the year, particularly by boosting visits outside the current peak seasons. Marketing should be consistent with the good management of the special qualities that underpin the Park's appeal and bring together VisitScotland and private sector networks.

- c) **Ensure effective involvement by all stakeholders in the planning, development and management of tourism in the Park, and maintain good communication between them.**

Structures that bring together organisations and people with different interests to work in partnership are needed to deliver a sustainable approach to tourism. The interests of industry providers, visitors, land managers and communities need to come together to develop a mutual

understanding and communication of each other's needs and priorities.

- d) **Strengthen and maintain the viability of the tourism industry in the Park and the contribution that it makes to the local economy.**

Despite the importance of tourism to the local economy, many individual businesses are relatively fragile and are seeking additional income to underpin their viability. In addition to the promotion and marketing of the Park, there is a need to support business development and increase the economic benefits generated in the local economy through strengthening local supply chains.

- e) **Improve and maintain the quality of experience in the Park for all visitors, communities and those working within the tourism industry.**

The quality of experience is key to the long-term sustainability of tourism. This includes the experience that visitors enjoy when they come to the Park, the experience of those working in the industry and the interactions between communities and local tourism providers. In all these, good practice should be recognised and become the benchmark for everyone involved in tourism across the Park.

Existing policy context

- European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas
- New Strategy for Scottish Tourism 2000
- Tourism Framework for Action 2002
- Scottish Tourism Environment Forum

Key implementation strategies

- Sustainable Tourism Strategy

Cross-reference

- 5.2.2 Nature Conservation
- 6.2 Economy and Employment
- 7.2 Outdoor Access and Recreation
- 7.3 Visitor Services
- 7.4 Learning and Understanding

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6.5 Transport and Communications

Although the Park is relatively well served by road and rail transport links to outside centres such as Inverness, Aberdeen and Perth, links within the Park, particularly east-west, are less well developed. Bus services provide the main form of public transport within the Park, and provide an opportunity to expand the service provision to benefit residents, visitors and reduce the number of journeys by car. Telecommunications is generally good in the main settlements of the Park and most are able to handle broadband.

The A9 and A93 are significant transport and transmission corridors within the Park and their future development and impacts need to be managed with reference to the aims of the Park and minimising adverse effects on the special qualities.

Strategic Objectives:

a) Encourage and support improvements to public transport quality and accessibility to better meet demand and increase use.

Use of public transport is currently limited by route provision, frequency and a lack of connectivity in places. Services should be targeted to meet the needs of residents and visitors, with a particular focus on integration between transport types. Better information for residents and visitors on timetables will increase ease of access and use.

b) Ensure transport and communications infrastructure is managed and developed in ways consistent with the special qualities of the Park.

The transport and communications infrastructure provides valuable benefits to the Park, but the potential negative impacts of it on the landscape, natural heritage and other special qualities should be minimised.

The immediate surroundings of transport routes form an important part of the experience of the Park for both residents and visitors and should be managed to retain and enhance features such as walls and hedges and provide safe viewpoints.

c) Improve access to and encourage use of information technology, so creating opportunities for businesses and individuals to stay in, or locate to, the Park.

Most areas of Scotland have access to Broadband. The expansion of its use can assist in attracting hi-tech businesses to the Park, and better support home-workers and small or medium scale enterprises.

Existing policy context

- Transport White Paper 2004
- Scotland's Transport Future
- HITRANS Regional Transport Strategy
- NESTRANS 'Delivering a Modern Transport System'

Key implementation strategies

- Cairngorms Local Plan

Cross-reference

- 6.2 Economy and Employment
- 7.3 Visitor Services

6.6 Housing

The main housing challenge within the Park is the need to ensure greater access to affordable and good quality housing to meet the needs of the Park's communities. This includes both owner-occupier properties and those rented through social and private landlords.

New supply of housing should be consistent with the special qualities of the Park, use local materials where possible and meet the highest standards of water and energy efficiency and sustainable design.

Strategic Objectives:

a) Increase the accessibility of rented and owned housing to meet the needs of communities throughout the Park.

There is a need to ensure access to rented and low cost housing in perpetuity. This means identifying appropriate sites for housing and prioritising these in strategic planning as well as in funding programmes, and making appropriate provision for land through the Local Plan.

Access to housing could be increased by looking at new and existing properties, along with different mechanisms for housing, such as the use of local letting initiatives and the use of the rural housing burden to keep rented and home ownership affordable in the long term.

b) Promote effective co-ordination and co-operation between all public and private organisations involved in housing provision in the Park and the communities living there.

To achieve all the housing objectives, there is a need for all organisations involved to work closely together in developing the Housing Action Plan, sharing information and good practice and shaping future policy.

This requires good communication between the public and private sectors as well as within the public sector.

c) Improve the physical quality, energy efficiency and sustainable design of housing in all tenures throughout the Park.

Housing in the Park should aim to be an exemplar of good practice in energy and water efficiency and sustainable design. The lessons learned from different construction methods and approaches should be shared between partners to ensure a continuing improvement in quality and efficiency. The Local Plan and associated design guidance should promote high quality design and efficiency.

d) Ensure there is effective land and investment for market and affordable housing to meet the economic and social needs of communities throughout the Park.

The availability of appropriate land and investment in infrastructure and services is key to the provision of housing. To ensure the availability of land and investment in the Park that is consistent with the special qualities of the area and avoids damage to important nature conservation sites and species, a long-term strategy and partnership is required.

Existing policy context

- The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001
- The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
- Homelessness etc (Scotland) Act 2003
- Crofters Acts 1993 and 1997
- Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003

Key implementation strategies

- Housing Action Plan
- Cairngorms Local Plan

Cross-reference

- 6.2 Economy and Employment
- 6.9 Strengthening Communities

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6.7 Renewable Energy

There is currently no significant energy generation within the Park, and settlements draw their energy needs from the National Grid. In pursuit of more sustainable development, there is a significant opportunity in the Park to develop renewable sources of energy (including heat) such as biomass, wind and solar to serve communities and households. While large-scale commercial energy installations such as wind farms are not considered appropriate in the Park, the development of domestic and community-scale facilities should be pursued in appropriate locations.

Strategic Objectives:

a) Help achieve national targets for greater renewable production through community and domestic scale schemes.

There is a need to raise the awareness of the range of renewable energy sources available and to encourage the necessary supply chains and infrastructure. By supporting small-scale schemes within communities, in halls, houses, land-based industries and small businesses, the Park can help Scotland achieve its national targets and work towards an efficient use of energy within the Park. There is a particular opportunity to develop the use of wood-fuel energy within the Park. The public sector should take a lead in using renewable energy in its own facilities within the Park.

b) Help communities and households to obtain the information, expertise and support they need to reduce energy consumption and increase renewable generation.

There is a wide range of technology, expertise and information available on renewable energy technologies including biomass, wind and solar generation, together with measures to reduce energy consumption.

The key to realising this potential is to provide communities and householders with easily accessible support and guidance that links the process and organisations together.

c) Support research into renewable energies in the Park

As a rural area with low energy generation levels, the area has to import much of its power and technological know-how. By promoting the Park as a suitable place to develop renewable energy research and development, we can help Scotland take a lead in finding alternative energy sources, while contributing to the aims of the Park.

Existing policy context

- UK Climate Change Programme
- Securing a Renewable Future: Scotland's Renewable Energy

Key implementation strategies

- Cairngorms Local Plan

Cross-reference

- 5.2.1 Landscape
- 5.3 Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
- 6.2 Economy and Employment
- 6.9 Strengthening Communities

6.8 Waste Management

Current waste management schemes vary across local authority areas and include some kerbside provision and a number of recycling points. The long-term approach to waste management in the Park must firstly reduce the amount of waste to the minimum through careful use and re-use, then to ensure that there are easily accessible recycling facilities within communities.

Strategic Objectives:

a) Exceed national targets for better waste management through community and domestic scale schemes.

Management of waste should exceed national targets. Waste should be minimised, re-used or recycled and the necessary infrastructure to enable communities, individuals and businesses to re-use and recycle should be developed.

b) Increase awareness of the benefits of effective waste management through reducing, re-using and recycling.

Waste is a potential resource which can have economic and social benefits, but its inefficient processing, particularly through landfill, results in the loss of raw materials and further impact on the environment. Through raising awareness of the impacts of producing and processing waste, communities and businesses can adapt systems to manage resources more efficiently through their life-cycle. Termed

'Zero Waste', this approach includes increasing the number of local composting, re-use and recycling projects, through partnerships of community initiatives, private waste companies and local authorities.

c) Encourage provision of waste management infrastructure at domestic and commercial scale.

Greater provision at the domestic and commercial scale should be developed to ensure that it is easier to re-use and recycle waste.

d) Reduce litter in the Park.

As a National Park with an outstanding natural environment and an important tourist industry, reducing the presence of litter across the Park, particularly around roads, settlements and popular visitor attractions, will contribute significantly to the quality of life and experience in the Park.

Existing policy context

- National Waste Strategy
- Area Waste Plans
- NPPG 10
- Landfill Directive

Key implementation strategies

- Cairngorms Local Plan

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6.9 Strengthening Communities

The Park's population (16,024 in 2001 census) is focused in communities of varied size, spread across 23 community council areas. Key to fulfilling the over-arching principle of community participation in the Park's management as set out in Section 3 is the need to support communities in this role. The stronger the capacity, knowledge and resources of communities, the more effective will be their role in shaping the future of the Park.

Strategic Objectives:

a) Strengthen the capacity of local communities and encourage community development.

Communities should be supported in building their capacity, knowledge and resources to encourage development and activity within individual communities, and effective engagement with shaping the Park and other public policy.

b) Promote provision of local services that meet the needs of communities.

The provision of services should contribute to thriving communities that have the appropriate facilities to meet their needs. Access to services including schools, health care and social infrastructure such as shops, post offices, pubs and phone boxes is key to the long-term sustainability of communities. New development should seek to reinforce the sustainability of communities and support the provision of services in settlements.

c) Promote community involvement and wider representation in the management of the Park.

Local communities should be able to inform and participate in the management of the Park, and be well-informed about its management. Communities should be able

to understand the role of public bodies and how they can contribute to and influence their work. Public bodies should have an understanding of the needs and issues at a community level, and how to engage effectively with communities.

Community Planning

Community Planning has become established as an effective means for people to become involved in the planning and development of their area, and have a say in its future. The formal processes of Community Planning carried out through local authorities already provide a good basis for people to influence the future management and development of the Park and their communities.

The principles of Community Planning should be extended as a means to involve people in management planning across all aspects of this Park Plan – it is only through active engagement that the knowledge, needs and ambitions of communities can be shared and realised.

Existing policy context

- National Standards for Community Engagement

Key implementation strategies:

- Cairngorms Local Plan

Cross-reference

- 5.4 Integrated Land Management
- 5.5.2 Culture and Traditions
- 7.2 Outdoor Access and Recreation

7. UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYING THE PARK



7. UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYING THE PARK

7.1 Introduction – Understanding and Enjoying the Special Qualities of the Park

Combined with the outstanding natural environment and cultural heritage, the range of outdoor activities and visitor attractions in the Park make it a place that both residents and visitors enjoy. The experiences of residents and visitors enjoying the Park should be of the highest quality. Part of the integration required in managing the Park is to promote understanding and enjoyment, including recreation, in ways that are not only consistent with the special qualities, but actively develop understanding about the Park and contribute to its conservation and enhancement.

The promotion and management of outdoor access and visitor services is an integral part of developing a sustainable approach to tourism, in line with the principles of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism (see Section 6.4). The right of responsible access to land and water, supported by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, provides the starting point. The Park however, has an opportunity to build on this context and help those enjoying the countryside and those managing it to understand the others' needs and ensure that outdoor access contributes to all four aims of the Park.

The need to understand what makes the Park so special and how it functions does not just apply to visitors, but includes residents, businesses, specialist interest groups and people elsewhere in Scotland. The Park is a national asset, and effective future management relies on informed debate and understanding of the Park, and its national and international importance.

7.2 Outdoor Access and Recreation

Many people enjoy outdoor access in the Park in a wide variety of forms, whether as part of their everyday routine, regular visits or occasional holidays. It offers an exceptional range of recreation opportunities for people of varied interests.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and Scottish Outdoor Access Code provide for a right of responsible access to land and water. It is important to note that the responsibility lies with both those taking recreation and those providing access. The interaction between those taking access, land management and the natural heritage is key to the integrated approach required in the Park. The challenge within the Park is to establish a positive approach to managing and taking access that not only safeguards, but also enhances the special qualities and improves people's understanding of the Park.

Strategic Objectives:

a) Encourage people of all ages and abilities to enjoy and experience the outdoor environment.

People of all ages and abilities, regardless of social, economic or physical constraints, should be able to enjoy and experience the special qualities of the Cairngorms safely. This means that a range of opportunities should be available, from organised activities to informal exploration, from guided or way-marked routes through to unmarked routes, from quiet enjoyment to adventure sports. The quality of outdoor access infrastructure, for example the paths, should be enhanced so as to be accessible and appropriate for a range of different users and appropriate to the landscape and natural heritage setting.

b) Encourage responsible enjoyment of the Park so that its special qualities are understood and appreciated, and safeguarded now and for future generations to enjoy.

The enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park must be accompanied by an understanding of responsibilities to other visitors, land managers, communities and the natural and cultural heritage to ensure that the very qualities people come to enjoy are safeguarded. Those enjoying outdoor access should develop an understanding of their potential impacts and responsibilities and ensure that they help to maintain the special qualities of the Park.

c) Co-ordinate the effort of key public, private and voluntary sector interests in the sustainable management of outdoor access throughout the Park.

To secure responsible outdoor access throughout the Park in the long-term requires co-ordination of the efforts of a wide range of interests, to develop a mutual understanding and to communicate each other's needs and priorities. This includes public agencies, land managers, tourism operators, communities, sports and access user groups.

d) Support and encourage local community involvement in management of outdoor access throughout the Park.

People in communities have a particular interest in local outdoor access routes surrounding their homes. Often these provide access facilities for residents' recreation, dog-walking, routes to schools or shops, as well as being part of a wider access network used by others. Local routes can also form important attractions linked to local businesses and community interpretation facilities. It is therefore desirable that communities play a key role

in developing and managing the outdoor access routes around their homes, to maximise the potential benefits.

e) Encourage responsible management of outdoor access and develop a common understanding of the needs of managers and users.

The strong links between land management, access and tourism in the Park, together with the presence of some vulnerable habitats, requires a pro-active approach to managing outdoor access. Building on the approach to responsible management identified in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, support should be given to land managers and access providers to share knowledge and experience in developing good practice in access management.

f) Protect the more fragile areas of the Park from pressures arising from outdoor access and recreation.

There are areas of the Park, particularly parts of the mountains, native woodlands and water, in which there are nationally and internationally important, but fragile, habitats or species present. These are a key part of the Park's natural heritage and underpin its designation and attraction.

There are also many important sites of cultural and historic significance in the Park, some of which are vulnerable. These areas must be protected from the physical pressures arising from outdoor access and recreation and sites that are currently suffering from these pressures should be addressed. Those enjoying the outdoors can contribute to this protection through responsible behaviour and taking positive action to conserve these important interests.

7. UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYING THE PARK...cont

Existing policy context

- Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
- Scottish Outdoor Access Code
- Scotland's Transport Future

Key implementation strategies

- Outdoor Access Strategy
- Sustainable Tourism Strategy
- Integrated Land Management Strategy
- Interpretation Framework
- Cairngorms Local Plan

Cross-reference

- 5.2.2 Nature Conservation
- 5.4 Integrated Land Management
- 6.4 Sustainable Tourism
- 7.3 Visitor Services

Local Outdoor Access Forum

The Park Authority has established a Local Outdoor Access Forum to advise on the exercise of access rights, rights of way and development of a core paths plan for the Park. The Park Authority has a statutory duty to establish this Forum, and its membership brings together experienced people from a variety of different fields – land managers, recreational users and community representatives – interested in or affected by access rights.

The Forum advises the Park Authority and others on:

- Strategic outdoor access issues;
- Preparation of an Outdoor Access Strategy;
- Preparation and adoption of a Core Paths Plan;
- Resolution of disputes concerning the exercise of access rights.

It also promotes responsible access and land management through the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, promotes discussion and sharing of good practice and supports the provision of appropriate infrastructure.

7.3 Visitor Services

The visitor experience in the Park should be of the highest quality and be renowned internationally as a well managed area that not only meets the needs of visitors, but gives them an understanding of the Park and allows them to contribute positively to its conservation and enhancement.

The services provided to visitors will have a significant impact on their understanding and enjoyment of the Park. The definition of visitors in this Plan includes all those who take access in and enjoy the Park, irrespective of whether they live within or outside it. Good quality information needs to be targeted at specific audiences, drawing out key themes and messages. The provision of information in different forms, before, during and after visits, is an important part of developing awareness and understanding, but face-to-face contact with people, such as accommodation providers and ranger services, is also important.

The impacts of visitors must also be managed so that the natural and cultural heritage qualities which underpin the Park's attraction are conserved and enhanced. Good information will help visitors to safeguard the special qualities and contribute positively to the Park. There is space within the Park to accommodate many different forms of recreation without impinging unduly on each other or other interests, but this requires active management to spread the benefits of visitors, and to encourage visitors to experience different parts of the Park.

Strategic Objectives:

- a) **Develop and maintain a wide range of opportunities for visitors to experience and enjoy the special qualities, distinctiveness and natural and cultural heritage of the Park.**

The special natural and cultural heritage qualities of the Park underpin its appeal and offer a distinctive visitor experience. Development of tourism products and services should help to develop discovery and understanding of the area through activities, events and products that draw on the special qualities of the Park. Focusing on this distinctiveness offers the potential for greater long-term sustainability in economic, environmental and social terms.

- b) **Ensure that visitors to the Cairngorms are aware of the range of opportunities, places to visit and things to do throughout the Park, and appreciate and respect its special qualities.**

The transfer of information to visitors about the Park, its special qualities and ways in which they can be experienced is key to

developing an appreciation and understanding of the area and what it offers. It is therefore an important process for managing tourism and encouraging greater exploration, longer stays, increased spending, responsible behaviour and repeat visits.

- c) **Encourage an optimum flow and spread of visitors across the Park and minimise social and environmental impact including traffic generated by visitors and conflicts between different forms of recreation.**

While tourism is a vital part of the local economy, its impacts on the environment and local communities need to be managed to ensure long-term sustainability. Certain attractions or areas may suffer damage to the habitats or species that people come to enjoy, disruption or congestion in local communities or more general traffic congestion. All these potential impacts should be taken into account in managing tourism, and their negative effects minimised. It is also desirable to spread the benefits of tourism across different areas of the Park and throughout the year.



Photo: David Gowans.

7. UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYING THE PARK...cont

- d) **Ensure that visitor information is targeted at specific audiences and encourages resource protection, responsible access, visitor safety, and the health benefits of regular outdoor exercise.**

As well as promoting the special qualities of the Park, visitor information should promote an understanding of visitor impacts on the natural heritage and help people to take action that reduces their impact and ensures long-term resource protection. It should also help people to understand their impacts on other users, land or water management and communities, and advise on responsible and safe ways to enjoy the Park. The health benefits of outdoor access and activities should also be promoted as part of a coherent approach to the benefits and responsibilities for visitors enjoying the Park.

- e) **Ensure a cohesive Park-wide approach to ranger services which meets the needs of visitors, communities and land managers.**

The ranger services in the Park are a valuable contact between visitors, communities and land managers, and contribute to many other strategic objectives through their roles in promoting enjoyment and understanding and managing the interactions of visitors with the places and communities they come to see. To the visitor, ranger services are a popular point of contact for information about the National Park. A cohesive approach to service delivery, closely linked to the Park, is needed to maximise the opportunities of both local and Park-wide knowledge.

- f) **Collate, analyse and use the best available information on visitor numbers, distribution, activities and perceptions to inform visitor management.**

To deliver all objectives relating to visitor management and tourism, from the quality of experience to resource protection, requires up-to-date information about visitor numbers, distribution, activities and perceptions. Although a wealth of information is currently collected, there are opportunities to put it to better use. Everyone involved in visitor management should seek to source and use the best available information in their planning and decision making, and the information should be widely available in a variety of forms.

Existing policy context

- New Strategy for Scottish Tourism, 2000
- Tourism Framework for Action 2002
- Scottish Tourism Environment Forum
- European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas

Key implementation strategies

- Sustainable Tourism Strategy
- Outdoor Access Strategy
- Interpretation Framework

Cross-reference

- 5.4 Integrated Land Management
- 6.4 Sustainable Tourism
- 6.5 Transport and Communications
- 7.2 Outdoor Access and Recreation

7.4 Learning and Understanding

Resolving the special management challenges that led to the area's designation as a National Park is complex. Many approaches have been tried over the years with varying success. It is clear that a renewed emphasis on bringing together the people involved in all aspects of the Park is needed, to strengthen their mutual understanding and capacity to tackle the sometimes conflicting challenges. Awareness of the Park and its special qualities is a necessary basis on which to influence future management and develop understanding about the connections between activities and the consequences of our collective actions.

As well as developing learning and understanding within the Park, it is important to raise awareness and understanding of the Park, its special qualities and its status as a national asset across Scotland and beyond. The lessons learned in other areas of the world should also be used in developing understanding of the Park in its Scottish and international context.

Strategic Objectives:

- a) **Encourage learning about sustainable development in ways that are related to people's everyday lives and focus on the special character and distinctive identity of the Park, and the management required to conserve and enhance it.**

The concept of sustainable development can best be explained and understood through reference to the interactions of the special qualities of the Park, their management and the use of resources and energy in everyday contexts. The challenge is to bring the concept to life in ways that are rooted in people's everyday experiences and the places they know.

- b) **Encourage people of all ages, abilities and walks of life to get outdoors frequently and experience the special natural and cultural qualities of the area at first hand.** Understanding about the Park and its management goes hand-in-hand with experiencing its places and its special qualities at first hand. Formal and informal education should take every opportunity to use the Park as a learning resource and help people of all ages to explore and get to know it. More should be made of the opportunities to use creative approaches to engage people in the outdoors including music, art and drama.
- c) **Capture knowledge and factual information about the Park in a range of appropriate ways so that it is easily available to anyone who wants to use it and can be passed on to future generations.** Information about the Park, its special qualities and its management needs to be widely available and accessible to people with a wide spectrum of interest and specialist knowledge. There is a great deal of information held locally or by individuals that is not formally recorded, but that contributes greatly to our understanding of the area's history, use and communities. Finding ways to capture and transfer both oral and written information is important to developing understanding about the Park and informing its future management.
- d) **Ensure that the Park is a place where both scientific and traditional forms of knowledge about the land and its management are valued and put to good use in the long-term management of the area.** There is a significant amount of scientific data on certain aspects of the Cairngorms,

7. UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYING THE PARK...cont

and there is a wealth of knowledge amongst those who have lived and worked in the area. It is important that the future management draws on the full range of this knowledge, using the best available information from scientific study and formal monitoring, together with the experience of people that have lived and worked in the area.

e) Increase mutual understanding and trust amongst people interested in the Park through exchange of ideas, perspectives and knowledge.

The successful management of the Park in the long-term relies on a mutual understanding of the needs and priorities of different interests, and a trust between them in sharing information and working together to resolve potentially conflicting objectives. Communication and exchange of ideas, different perspectives and individual knowledge is the key to developing this understanding and trust and to ensuring that future management is based on well-informed and constructive debate. This will require, amongst other things, the formation of appropriate inter-disciplinary groups and skilled facilitation.

f) Seek and share experience and knowledge from the management of other areas in Scotland and the world.

There is a wide range of experience in managing protected areas around the world, and managing other rural areas in Scotland. Many other areas face similar challenges to the Park and everyone involved in it should look continually to identify good practice. They should also learn from experience elsewhere in order to inform management tailored to the particular circumstances of the Park. The transfer of experience to and from the Park is vital to informing Scottish and

international debate about resource management, land-use and rural development.

g) Ensure that people across Scotland are aware of the Cairngorms National Park and understand why it is worth investing in.

The Park is a national asset and information about the Park, its management and the opportunities for enjoying it should be widely available to everyone in Scotland and beyond. The Park has many important natural and cultural heritage qualities and it is important to develop understanding at a national level of its value, international status and management needs. In turn, management of the Park should be informed by national perspectives.

Existing policy context

- National Priorities for Schools: National Priority 4, Values and Citizenship

Key implementation strategies

- Sustainable Tourism Strategy
- Education and Youth Strategy
- Outdoor Access Strategy
- Interpretation Framework

Cross-reference

- 6.3 Education and Training
- 6.4 Sustainable Tourism

8. IMPLEMENTATION



Photo: Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

8. IMPLEMENTATION

8.1 A Partnership Approach

The strategic objectives identified in the previous sections have been developed in partnership with a diverse range of organisations involved in managing the Park (see Annex 1). The implementation of these objectives and the priorities for action that flow from them relies equally on this diverse range of organisations. The agenda set out by the Park Plan has a scope beyond the remit of any one organisation, including the Park Authority. It sets out the co-ordinated approach needed across a range of organisations to work towards the aims of the Park.

The principal role of the Park Authority is to lead the partnerships required to achieve these objectives and co-ordinate delivery of the action programmes set out in the accompanying Priorities for Action, in which a range of organisations have responsibility to take action.

The Park Authority and all public bodies prepare corporate plans which set out the priorities for the organisation over a three to five year period, guide their allocation of resources and determine their operational activities. The Park Authority's corporate plan will in future be shaped by the objectives and priorities set out in the Park Plan. Similarly, the corporate plans of other public bodies will reflect the objectives and priorities of the Park Plan, so far as their work affects the aims of the Park.

This co-ordination will be overseen by the National Park's Advisory Panel on Joined-up Government, which brings together senior representatives of public agencies. Its role is to ensure sufficient co-ordination across the public sector to deliver the Plan effectively and efficiently.

8.2 Priorities for Action 2007-2012

The long-term strategy set out here identifies a broad range of objectives which will direct the strategic planning and day-to-day working of all public bodies in the Park, and influence the private, community and voluntary sectors. Work towards these objectives will form part of good day-to-day management and governance for all public bodies and others involved in managing the Park, through the partnership approach described above.

However, given the breadth of the long-term vision, a particular focus is required to ensure that the most pressing issues and challenges are tackled. This means that the varied partners need to combine and co-ordinate their resources over a common timescale to tackle the areas that will make most impact on achieving the objectives in the immediate future.

The second part of this Park Plan is therefore the Priorities for Action 2007-2012. This accompanying action plan identifies seven priority areas on which to focus resources and effort over the next five year period. It sets out an initial programme of action for each priority, to be delivered by a range of partners. These action programmes will be developed by the partners during 2006 and will be informed by the public consultation. The detailed work programmes that result will form a part of the final Park Plan that will be completed towards the end of 2006.

9. MONITORING AND REVIEW



9. MONITORING AND REVIEW

There are two distinct strands to the monitoring and review process. Firstly, the collective actions being achieved will be monitored. Secondly, the impact of everyone's work on the Park as a whole will be considered, and the extent to which the four aims of the Park are being achieved collectively will be monitored.

The first monitors work on the ground; and the second looks at its impact on the Park. Both will feed into a review of the Plan over time.

9.1 Monitoring Delivery of the Plan

Work programmes for delivery of the Plan's priorities for action will be monitored to assess whether they are being delivered. These work programmes will include actions that are the responsibility of several different organisations operating within the Park.

Under each of the priorities for action, detailed monitoring and review frameworks will be developed in conjunction with key partners as a part of working up the full work programme for 2007-2012, and will be included in the finalised Park Plan.

9.2 Monitoring the 'Health' of the Park

The Plan sets out a number of strategic objectives which seek to achieve the four aims of the Park. As well as detailed monitoring of actions which flow from these objectives, it is important to assess whether the aims and strategic objectives of the Park as a whole are being achieved. Key questions that we will need to be able to answer in the future include:

- Are the four aims being achieved collectively?
- Is the Park as a whole going in the right direction?
- Are the special qualities of the Park being conserved, enhanced and enjoyed?

To answer these questions, a set of indicators are proposed to provide a snapshot of the overall 'health' of the Park at any given time and to feed into a review of the cumulative impact of the Plan on the Park. The proposed themes for health indicators are detailed below as part of this consultation.

Monitoring the state of the Park will be an ongoing process, but the information will be formally collated and published at five-yearly intervals in an update to the State of the Park Report. This will also draw together updated information on the Park's resources deriving from the Park's ongoing research programme and other sources.

9.3 Proposed Health Indicators

The table opposite proposes indicator themes that together will provide a snapshot of the state of the Park at any given time. We intend to develop indicators for each of these themes in conjunction with partners as part of the consultation on the Draft Park Plan. The agreed indicators will be included in the finalised Park Plan.

A monitoring regime will be established for the agreed indicators and will inform the interim reporting on the Park Plan and State of the Park Report, and its review at five-year intervals.

The table opposite summarises the proposed indicator themes and identifies their relevance to the four aims of the Park (see Section 1.1)

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED INDICATOR THEMES

No	Indicator Theme	Relevance to Park Aims			
		Aim 1	Aim 2	Aim 3	Aim 4
1.	Landscape change	•	•	•	•
2.	Affordable housing	•	•		•
3.	Population profile			•	•
4.	Seasonal employment rates by sector				•
5.	Agricultural activity	•	•	•	•
6.	Biodiversity	•	•	•	•
7.	Water quality	•	•	•	•
8.	Traffic volumes and modes	•	•	•	•
9.	Education and learning	•	•	•	•
10.	Waste	•	•		•
11.	Visitor enjoyment of the Park	•	•	•	•
12.	Cultural heritage	•	•	•	•
13.	Business health				•
14.	Geographical availability of services				•
15.	Community vibrancy	•		•	•

9.4 Explanation of Proposed Indicator Themes

9.4.1 Landscape Change

The distinctive landscape character of the Park has been identified as one of its most recognised special qualities. The landscape is a product of many different influences including natural processes, land management and the composition of habitats and species. Monitoring the landscape change over time will therefore give an insight into the cumulative impacts of several different processes influencing the Park.

Potential indicators include:

- Land-use cover change;
- Change in field boundary features (hedges and dykes).

9.4.2 Affordable Housing

Access to affordable housing is an essential component of sustainable economic and social development and influences whether people in lower income brackets are able to live and work in the Park. The affordability of housing is influenced by the demand for housing, proportion

of second homes, income levels, the supply of housing and co-ordination of housing needs and supply. Monitoring the affordability of housing therefore gives an indication of the health of communities.

Potential indicators include:

- Ratio of households in priority need, to number of annual social rented properties available;
- Level of private landlords' uptake of grants and other forms of assistance to provide affordable rented housing.

9.4.3 Population Profile

The population profile of the Park gives an insight into the structure and vitality of communities, the economic health, and the skills and labour necessary for long-term sustainability. Changes in population profile may have long-term implications for the Park's communities and economy, and the services required to meet the needs of communities.

9. MONITORING AND REVIEW...cont

Potential indicators include:

- Proportion of population of working age;
- Proportion of population under 25 years old.

9.4.4 Seasonal Employment Rates by Sector

Employment enables people to meet their needs and improve their living standard and addresses the problems of poverty and social exclusion. Monitoring employment, unemployment and vacancy levels, therefore gives an indication of the health of communities and society in the Park as well as the health of the economy. In the particular context of the Park, monitoring seasonal, full-time and part-time employment would be of value.

Potential indicators include:

- Employment rates by sector (full-time, part-time and seasonal).

9.4.5 Agricultural Activity

Agriculture is one of the main land uses within the Park, which has a significant influence on the special qualities and contributes to employment and the economy. Monitoring the extent of agricultural activity and its viability will therefore give an insight into the economy and culture of the area, and potential implications for the Park's management and its special qualities.

Potential indicators include:

- Total income from farming;
- Number and area of active farm units.

9.4.6 Biodiversity

Biodiversity is valued as one of the special qualities of the Park, and it is influenced by a range of physical conditions such as climate and pollution, and by human activity, including land management, recreation and development. Monitoring elements of biodiversity therefore offers a good insight into the cumulative effect of a number of different factors on the state of the Park.

Potential indicators include:

- Wild bird populations;
- Percentage of Local Biodiversity Action Plan species in favourable condition;
- Percentage of Local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats in favourable condition.

9.4.7 Water Quality

Water quality is a key indicator of impacts on the environment from pollution, land-use, development, waste management and other natural and human processes. It is also a key resource for many of the Park's special qualities of biodiversity, for human infrastructure and drinking water. Monitoring its quality will therefore give an insight into the impacts of a variety of factors on the state of the Park.

Potential indicators include:

- Ecological condition of river water;
- Conservation of hydromorphology.

9.4.8 Traffic Volumes and Modes

Traffic volumes in the Park may be affected by the popularity of the Park as a visitor destination and by the effectiveness of public transport within the Park. They have a significant impact on the environmental quality of the Park and on the sustainability of the communities and economy. Monitoring the modal split, ie: the use of different transport types, will give an insight into the ease with which people can get around, the effectiveness of public transport, and ultimately the sustainability of transport in the Park.

Potential indicators include:

- Traffic volumes by modal split on selected routes;
- Levels of use of public transport.

9.4.9 Education and Learning

Opportunities for education and learning enable individuals to achieve their full potential by contributing to a successful working life and

promoting understanding and active citizenship. They are also key to the long-term success of the Park through developing understanding about the Park, its special qualities and management needs. Monitoring the uptake of education and training related to the Park will therefore give an indication of understanding about the needs of the Park.

Potential indicators include:

- Number and percentage uptake of available outdoor education places;
- Number of participants in the Land Based Business Training Programme;
- Number of participants in the John Muir Award;
- Level of qualifications achieved.

9.4.10 Waste

Effective management of waste produced by households, commerce and industry is important if the Park is to improve resource efficiency. Monitoring waste arisings and the percentage of recycled and landfilled waste will indicate the Park's performance in terms of the sustainable use of resources.

Potential indicators include:

- Total waste arisings;
- Percentage of waste recycled;
- Access to kerbside recycling facilities.

9.4.11 Visitor Enjoyment of the Park

The Park is a valuable leisure and recreational resource, offering a range of active pursuits in a setting of exceptional natural and cultural heritage. The experience of visitors in the Park will be influenced by a wide range of factors including service levels, quality of facilities, quality of information and interpretation. Monitoring the satisfaction levels of visitor experiences in the Park will therefore give an insight into this range of factors and into the state of an industry that contributes significantly to the economy of the Park.

Potential indicators include:

- Visitor numbers;
- Visitor spend;
- Duration of visits.

9.4.12 Cultural Heritage

The cultural heritage of the Park is one of its valued special qualities and includes the built and historic environment as well as culture and traditions. The built heritage is influenced by development, land management and pressure from visitors and recreation. The culture and traditions of the area are influenced by population trends, the vitality of communities and the skills and informal learning opportunities available. Monitoring the state of the cultural heritage will therefore give an insight into these areas as well as the health of one of the Park's special qualities.

Potential indicators include:

- Percentage of listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments at risk;
- Number of community heritage groups/museums;
- Number of cultural heritage events.

9.4.13 Business Health

Sustainable economic and social development of the Park will depend on the number, type (including self-employed) and stability of businesses within the Park and the number and range of employment opportunities they offer. Monitoring the turnover of businesses and number of registered businesses will provide an indication of the sustainability of economic development within the Park and its benefits for the communities.

Potential indicators include:

- Levels of employment by business type.

9.4.14 Geographical Availability of Services

Providing easily accessible services is key to tackling social disadvantage within the Park and

9. MONITORING AND REVIEW...cont

promoting sustainable communities. The availability of services is a function of the service locations, public transport and health of communities. Monitoring the distance of households from key services (post offices, primary schools, general store/supermarket, doctor's surgery, bank/cashline machine) will provide an insight into accessibility of current service provision.

Potential indicators include:

- Distance of services from households;
- Time taken to reach key services.

9.4.15 Community Vibrancy

Local community activity promotes vibrant and socially inclusive communities. It is an indication of how residents value their locality and identify with it, the number of active people within communities and the skills that they have.

Potential indicators include:

- Levels of use of community meeting places;
- Levels of volunteering;
- Levels of participation in community council elections.

9.5 Review of the Park Plan

The information collected during the monitoring process will be used not only to update the State of the Park Report, but also to feed into a review of the impact of the Plan on the Park and of the extent to which the four aims of the Park are being achieved collectively.

The Park Plan will be reviewed formally at five-yearly intervals, with the first review being due in 2012. The purpose of review will be:

- to review whether the Plan has successfully taken the Park towards achieving its four aims collectively;

- to review what changes to the long-term strategy are necessary;
- to review what the Priorities for Action in the next five year period should be.

The review of the Plan will be accompanied by a review of the State of the Park Report, which will inform consideration of the changes needed in the Plan.

It is anticipated that the vision and strategic objectives, which comprise the long-term look to 2030, should remain relatively constant but will be updated in the light of changing circumstances. The Priorities for Action will be fully reviewed to consider which of the previous action programmes have been superseded by new issues requiring priority action within the next five-year period.

9.6 Interim Reporting and Review

If within the five-year period there is a significant change in national policy or circumstances in the Park, then the relevant sections of the Park Plan will be updated to reflect any changes to the management approach in the Park that may prove necessary or desirable. It is important that the Plan remains an active process to guide management of the Park, rather than simply a formal document that is reviewed every five years. The Priorities for Action 2007-2012 will be a working action plan that is amended as necessary during the five year period.

In addition to the formal, five-yearly review, interim reviews of the performance of the Park Plan in delivering its four aims will be conducted every two years. To inform this process, the monitoring and review frameworks for each priority and associated strategies will report on a two-yearly basis.

10. ANNEXES



10. ANNEXES

ANNEX I:

The following organisations and groups have been involved in discussions to develop the Draft Park Plan:

Aberdeenshire Council	John Muir Trust
Angus Council	
Association of Cairngorms Community Councils	Moray Council
Association of Deer Management Groups	
	National Farmers Union of Scotland
Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group	National Trust for Scotland
	North East Mountain Trust
Cairngorms Campaign	Ramblers Association
Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland
Cairngorms Housing Group	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Group	Royal Zoological Society
Cairngorms Local Outdoor Access Forum	
Cairngorms Moorland Project Steering Group	Scottish Agricultural College
Cairngorms National Park Economic and Social Development Forum	Scottish Civic Trust
Cairngorms National Park Integrated Land Management Forum	Scottish Countryside Rangers Association
Cairngorms National Park Visitor Services Information and Tourism Forum	Scottish Crofting Foundation
Communities Scotland	Scottish Estates Business Group
Crofters Commission	Scottish Enterprise Grampian
	Scottish Enterprise Tayside
Deer Commission for Scotland	Scottish Environment Link
	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen	Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
	Scottish Native Woods
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	Scottish Natural Heritage
Forestry Commission Scotland	Scottish Rural Property and Business Association
Forest Enterprise	Scottish Water
	Scottish Wild Land Group
HIE Moray	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Highland Council	SportScotland
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	
Historic Scotland	VisitScotland
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise	

ANNEX 2:

IUCN Management Principles for Category V Protected Areas

(Taken from 'Management Guidelines for IUCN Category V Protected Areas', World Commission on Protected Areas Best Practice Guidelines Series No 9, 2002)

Principle 1:

Conserving landscape, biodiversity and cultural values are at the heart of the Category V protected area approach. Though much emphasis is placed in this guidance on economic and social considerations, Category V is a conservation approach which should reflect the over-arching objectives of all protected areas. It is therefore about managing change in such a way that environmental and cultural values endure: change should take place within limits that will not disrupt those values.

Principle 2:

The focus of management should be on the point of interaction between people and nature. To recall part of the definition used in the 1994 Guidelines: "Safeguarding the integrity of (the) traditional interaction is vital to the protection, maintenance and evolution of the area" (IUCN, 1994, p.22). Thus, whereas in many other kinds of protected areas it is nature itself that is the main focus of management, what distinguishes Category V is that management primarily addresses the linkage between people and nature.

Principle 3:

People should be seen as stewards of the landscape. As the occupants of lived-in, working landscapes that are of great value to society as a whole, the people living within Category V protected areas should be supported in their role as stewards of the landscape. They are the architects of much we value in the landscape, and their support is needed to ensure its survival. Ideally, they help to shape and care for the environment with the traditions of the past, but with an eye to the future. In that sense, they may more correctly be described as 'the managers' of Protected Landscapes than the professionals who are employed with that formal title: good managers in the professional sense will therefore see their role as 'facilitators' and 'negotiators'.

Principle 4:

Management must be undertaken with and through local people, and mainly for and by them. This principle recognises that the full involvement of local people is essential, and that Category V protected areas should never be planned against their long-term interests. It also recognises that local communities should play an important role in delivering protected area objectives and be among the principal beneficiaries of these. But note that local people are not the only source of expertise. Moreover, there are other stakeholders who can derive benefits from protected landscapes: for example, visitors from nearby urban areas or further afield, resource users from afar (e.g. consumers of water supplies downstream), or the wider community interested in biodiversity or landscape protection.

Principle 5:

Management should be based on co-operative approaches, such as co-management and multi-stakeholder equity. It follows from Principles 2-4 that structures and processes are needed to ensure that people are involved fully in shaping management decisions and come to see the protected area as theirs. This will require the operation of open, transparent procedures based on democratic principles. Co-management approaches may be particularly appropriate to Category V protected areas.

Principle 6:

Effective management requires a supportive political and economic environment. The foregoing principles cannot be followed unless broader governance structures and practices in society at large are committed to certain standards. The management of Protected Landscapes will be easier to achieve if the government recognises the need for a quality of life perspective, follows democratic processes, and engages willingly in participatory planning based upon a fair and equitable approach to all groups and respect for a plurality of cultures. It will also be greatly helped by a top-level national commitment to sustainability, the alleviation of poverty, addressing the root causes of inequality, promoting gender equity and supporting civil society.

10. ANNEXES...cont

Principle 7:

Management of Category V protected areas should not only be concerned with protection but also enhancement. Because Category V protected areas are lived-in landscapes, the environment will have been manipulated more than is the case with the other categories of protected areas. It follows that a more active role for management is appropriate, not only in the protection but also in restoration of natural or cultural values that have been eroded or lost. It may on occasion also include the creation of new environmental and social assets which are ecologically or culturally appropriate: examples would be a new woodland or forested areas established on degraded soils, and the development of a new market for goods produced by local people.

Principle 8:

When there is irreconcilable conflict between the objectives of management, priority should be given to retaining the special qualities of the area. Because Protected Landscapes have important social as well as environmental objectives, there is considerable potential for conflict between objectives. As far as possible, management should seek to reconcile such conflicts. In the last analysis there need to be clear rules about what would have priority in such a situation. This principle states that when this happens, priority should be given to protecting the qualities that make the area special (what economists sometimes call 'critical environmental capital'). Because such a claim is likely to be contested, the principle may need to be embodied in legislation.

Principle 9:

Economic activities that do not need to take place within the Protected Landscape should be located outside it. As a lived in, working landscape, a Category V protected area will contain a variety of economic activities and land uses, such as agriculture, forestry, tourism and some forms of industry, commerce and retailing, as well as residential areas, some infrastructure, etc. The tests for whether such an activity or use is acceptable within the protected area, are whether (i) it is sustainable, (ii) it contributes to the aims of the area, and (iii) there are strong reasons for it to be located within it. Where the proposed activity fails these tests, it should either be totally re-designed to fit

Category V objectives or located outside the area altogether.

Principle 10:

Management should be business-like and of the highest professional standard. Notwithstanding the strong social and environmental emphasis in the management of Protected Landscapes, the operation of management should be business-like, and hard headed if necessary. It requires effective marketing of conservation approaches too. While this may be difficult to achieve in the short term, financial sustainability should be an aim, rather than 100 per cent reliance on public funding. Procedures should be put in place to ensure that public, private and voluntary funds and other resources are used with due regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness. All decision-making concerning the use of resources should be transparent and accountable.

Principle 11:

Management should be flexible and adaptive. Like protected area management in general, that of Category V protected areas needs to be capable of adjustment over time in light of experience and changing circumstances – but since its scope embraces both natural and human systems, the need for flexibility is all the greater. Management of Protected Landscapes should also be flexible and adaptive in the sense that it should respond to the very different social, cultural and economic situations in which it takes place: it should always be culturally appropriate and economically relevant.

Principle 12:

The success of management should be measured in environmental and social terms. Though absolutely central, biodiversity measures are only one of several indicators: others include social and economic welfare and the quality of life for local and other people, other environmental considerations such as energy efficiency or natural resource management, and measures relating to the conservation of the cultural environment. An aim should be to demonstrate the maximum social and economic benefits for the local community with the minimum environmental impact. The setting of objectives, also allocation of resources and monitoring of effectiveness should all be undertaken with this breadth of interest in mind.

Arctic-alpine habitat	Vegetation communities characteristic of high mountain environments.
Biodiversity	The total assemblage of living organisms.
Biomass	Material derived from plant or animal matter including agricultural and forestry residues that can be used for fuel.
Boreal Forest	The once extensive forest of northern Europe.
Cairngorms Partnership	A Partnership Board operational from 1995 to 2003 tasked with developing a coherent management strategy for the Cairngorms area.
Cairngorms Working Party	A working party which in 1992 recommended the establishment of the Cairngorms Partnership.
Cairngorms Local Plan	The Local Plan prepared by the Park Authority to guide planning and development control within the Park.
Caledonian Forest	Native Scots pine forest that has regenerated from generation to generation from the extensive boreal forest that once covered larger areas of northern Europe.
Ecosystem	The functioning system of habitats, species and natural processes that supports biodiversity.
European Charter for Sustainable Tourism	A charter developed by the Europarc Federation of Protected Areas to recognise and encourage the sustainable management of tourism.
Geological Conservation Review	A non-statutory list of sites identified as being of national importance for their geology, palaeontology, mineralogy or geomorphology.
Geomorphology	The landforms and features resulting from geological processes.
Habitat network	The interconnected pattern of habitats.
Hydrology	Study of water processes.
Hydromorphology	The landforms and features created by water processes.
IUCN (World Conservation Union)	The IUCN brings together 900 states, government agencies and other organisations in a partnership to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
Landscape Capacity Studies	Analysis of the landscape's ability to absorb development and the implications for landscape character.
Landscape Character Assessments	A process designed to bring a consistent approach to describing and characterising landscapes.
Listed Buildings	Buildings listed as being of special architectural or historic interest and therefore requiring special protection.
Montane	Areas of high ground above the natural tree-line.
Munros	Mountains in Scotland over 3000 feet (914 metres) in height.
National Nature Reserves	A suite of sites containing examples of some of the most important natural and semi-natural ecosystems in the UK. They are managed to conserve their habitats or provide opportunities for scientific study.

10. ANNEXES GLOSSARY...cont

Natura 2000	A European Union network of nature conservation sites representing the best examples of the range of habitats found in the EU, comprising Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.
National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)	Statements of Scottish Executive policy on nationally important land use and planning matters. They are being superseded by the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) series.
Priority Species	Species that are qualifying criteria of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; listed in Annex I, II, IV or V of the EC Habitats Directive; listed in Schedules 1,5 or 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; or listed in the UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
Public benefits	The benefits enjoyed by the public and the nation that result from land management or business practices.
Ramsar Sites	Sites designated as globally important wetlands to meet the UK's commitments under the Ramsar Convention.
Rural Housing Burden	A mechanism under the Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003 obliging an owner to offer the house back to the Rural Housing Body on sale, to ensure the property remains in the affordable stock.
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	Archaeological features recorded and protected by Historic Scotland.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	A national suite of nature conservation sites protected as examples of the UK's flora, fauna, geological or examples of physiographical features.
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Part of the Natura 2000 network, SACs are protected areas representative of the range of habitats and (non-bird) species of the European Union.
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	Part of the Natura 2000 network, SPAs are protected areas that are important habitats for rare and migratory birds in the European Union.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	A process to ensure that the significant environmental effects of plans, policies and programmes are identified, assessed, consulted on, mitigated and monitored.



Cairngorms
NATIONAL PARK

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